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MEDIA RELEASE

March 14, 2007

**UNITED STATES EMBASSY STATEMENT ON THE
AUSTRALIA-JAPAN JOINT DECLARATION ON
SECURITY COOPERATION**

The U.S. welcomes the efforts by Japan and Australia, two U.S. treaty allies, to expand their own security cooperation. We believe this agreement will allow Japan and Australia to strengthen their strategic relationship, which in turn will benefit regional stability.

We will continue to work closely with both Japan and Australia through our treaty mechanisms, including the annual AUSMIN consultations and U.S.-Japan security consultative committee (2+2 ministerial) meetings and we also continue to build our cooperative efforts with Japan and Australia through the ongoing trilateral strategic dialogue process and related initiatives, including in the areas of security and defense.

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